

PINK BOLLWORM PROGRAM – WEEKLY REPORT

38 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COTTON GROWERS



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Week Ending September 16, 2006

Pink Bollworm Activities

Palo Verde and Imperial Valleys:

There were 28,601 native pink bollworm (PBW) moths captured during the week, which represents about an 8% increase from last week's captures. There are now 196 traps currently in place, and 269,401 native moths have been captured year to date. Fields are being tested for appropriate boll collection sites.

Two traps in Bard have been removed, as fields have been harvested and are in compliance with plow down regulations. Blythe was again hit with high winds and accumulated .53 inch of rain over four days while the desert Hwy. 78 near Ogilby Road received isolated thunder cells.

Brawley has accumulated 4,505 heat units and is 6 days ahead of last year. The peak of the fifth generation is expected 10/04/06. The Palo Verde fifth field generation is projected to be 10/17/06.

San Joaquin Valley:

The PBW sterile release program suffered a setback on 9/12/06, with the damage of the contracted sterile release plane. The pilot made an unscheduled pit stop at the Wasco airport and left the plane running and unattended. The plane became engaged, and moved forward through a fence and crashed into an almond orchard. There were no personnel injuries, but the plane was damaged extensively. The good news is that the hopper and release mechanisms were undamaged. Shafter personnel were able to create a pickup truck release program. The San Joaquin Valley is still receiving and releasing two million sterile moths per day on selected 2006 find sections.

There were seven more Native Pink Bollworm captures for the week. This brings the season total in the San Joaquin Valley to 26. At this time last year, a total of forty-three (43) natives had been caught. The PBW ID Lab inspected 441 suspect traps, containing 3705 sterile moths. This represents a 29% decrease in recaptures of sterile moths from last week. The ID Lab has identified approximately 129,267 sterile PBW moths to date.

Merced County recorded its first native Pink Bollworm find of 2006. There was one Native Pink Bollworm trapped in Merced County in 2005 and zero captures in 2004. The find was located in TRS 10-10-26. The last time a native Pink Bollworm was located in this section was in year 2000.

Sacramento Valley:

There are currently 59 traps installed in the cotton fields of the Sacramento Valley. The traps will be inspected and removed in early October.